



## Episode 35 - “Protect Your Mind Vault”

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Sally: -- side-swiped on the way over here because people in Utah don't know how to change lanes. (laugh)

Emily: I've been having a lot of -- (sigh) I don't -- (laugh) I'm not a very road-ragey type of person, like, I can stay pretty chill in my car --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But, like, if I get tail-gated one more time needlessly when I'm going well above the speed limit --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then it's like, I'm gonna kill someone.

Sally: I know.

Emily: It's so obnoxious.

Sally: This morning, on my way to work, I was, like, fighting with this, like, open-door, open-ceiling Jeep behind me, so, like, of course --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But I was like -- on the road I take, the speed limit's, like, 50, so I was going like 55, whatever --

Emily: Mm-hmm.

Sally: Between 55 and 60, like, not like I was going slow, and he was, like, three centimeters from my bumper, and then as soon as he could move, he, like, moved over and just got immediately in front of me, and I'm like, what is your damage?

Emily: And it -- like -- ugh. My road rage stems from other people's road rage.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, I just can't comprehend why you're making such a big deal out of driving somewhere --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And saving, what, 10 extra seconds?

Sally: Kay, and the most confusing thing is is that he drove all the way up Highland, which becomes Van Winkle --

Emily: Right.

Sally: Which becomes Seventh East --

Emily: Right.

Sally: To get on the I -- the, like, I-15 freeway exit --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But he was, like -- passed another exit -- entrance to the freeway on that commute. So I was like, what just happened?

Emily: I just -- ugh.

Sally: Anyway. Utah -- Utah's tailgating problem is, like, out of this planet.

Emily: Anyway, I'm gonna cut out half of that because ... (inaudible)

Sally: My babies!

Emily: Although not much happened in these chapters, not that you'd know. (laugh)

Sally: Hey, are we just gonna skip over what we're reading?

Emily: (laugh) Fine, what are you reading?

Sally: No, we should -- we don't -- we've -- we're recording less than -- we're basically recording, like, 27 hours after we recorded the last episode.

Emily: Forty-eight.

Sally: That's right.

Emily: Almost.

Sally: That's right.

Emily: Yeah, because I have a crazy -- we both have a crazy week. So we're recording early in the week. Um. I am reading a different book, but I really feel like I have to finish it before I'll have -- you read it too.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Did you talk about it on the air?

Sally: I wanted to, but I forgot.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: So. I just had something to say about nuns, which is -- I don't remember, but I'll -- I'll think about it before we get to the White Tower.

Emily: Well, I'll finish the book and then talk about it last time -- talk about it next time.  
(whisper) Last time?

Sally: Talk about it last time.

Emily: (snort) I'm having a really hard time.

Sally: I'm still reading the Raven Cycle. Though I finished book three -- which, I forgot how much I liked book three. I just --

Emily: Books two and three are really delightful.

Sally: Yeah. I, like, loved book two so much because it -- you just get these, like, weird street racing archetypal dream vibes --

Emily: Yeah, yeah.

Sally: With our gay Catholic farmer. And it's just, like, such a pinnacle of everything I want my life to be and my writing to be. It's fine. So I forgot that -- and, like, I hate book four, so book three just gets lost somewhere between these poles of emotion. But book three is really good.

Emily: Book three is really -- I think one of the -- one of the main problems with book four is that there's no, like, discernible, uh, descent into book four --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause book two and book three are, like, the apex of the series --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But book four is just such a long way to fall. But yeah, book three has that good, good Ronan and Adam content.

Sally: Fuck, that -- just, like, good, good Adam content. Start to finish.

Emily: Adam's doing -- Adam's doing a lot of great things in book three.

Sally: God, I would die for Adam Parrish right now.

Emily: Although book two is also delightful. Like, remember when he just takes off in the middle of Gansey's --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, Congressional party?

Sally: Which is iconic. Yeah.

Emily: And goes on a -- goes hitchhiking accidentally.

Sally: Yeah. And (inaudible) -- memory.

Emily: 'Cause he's out of his head.

Sally: (sigh) Adam.

Emily: (sigh) I love the Raven Cycle.

Sally: I do too. Anyway.

(clip from "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba plays)

Sally: OK, theme song played, now you can make your joke about me not reading the chapters. Go ahead.

Emily: I lost it, and I don't actually want to make fun of you for not reading the chapters --

Sally: No, you just --

Emily: I just saw an opportunity and took it.

Sally: What she said was, “Not a lot happened in these chapters, not that you would know.”  
(laugh)

Emily: (laugh) ‘Cause Sally came into my house -- poor Sally drove all the way down to my parents’ house, which -- my mom was like, “Oh, I feel so bad, Sally’s driving all the way here and driving all the way back --”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And I was like, not 24 hours ago, your husband was like, “Does Sally hate us? She’s never down here.” So I was like, get on -- like, get together on this.

Sally: Take a program, yeah.

Emily: Take a program.

Sally: It’s fine. It was totally fine.

Emily: Anyway, Sally brought us cookies, which is gonna -- my dad is going to go crazy.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: As soon as he finds the cookies and consumes the cookies -- and I lost my train of thought. Oh, Sally walks in and, like, the first thing she says is, “I didn’t actually read the chapters,” ‘cause she didn’t have time, because you were doing all sorts of things for your work and for us today, so really it’s fine. And also I read the chapters and there’s not too much that happens. (laugh)

Sally: OK.

Emily: Anyway, this is Everybody Hates Rand --

Sally: Your --

Emily: Your friendly neighborhood Wheel of Time podcast -- were you gonna say it?

Sally: Dang right I was. But that’s OK, you got it.

Emily: Should we, like -- should we start switching off the lines?

Sally: (laugh) Should we start switching off words?

Emily: (laugh) No, I can’t handle that.

Sally: OK, but like she said, um, this is Everybody Hates Rand. I’m Sally Goodger.

Emily: I’m Emily Juchau.

Sally: Welcome.

Emily: Spoiler alert.

Sally: This is episode 35, which means our podcast can now run for president.

Emily: What?

Sally: You have to be 35 in order to run for president of the United States.

Emily: You only have to be 35?!

Sally: Right?! (laugh) It's so upsetting. The, like, qualifications are, like, you have to be 35, you have to have been, like, born a U.S. citizen, born in the United States, and then there's, like, something else that I can't remember. It might just be those two, but, like --

Emily: I'm having a crisis right now. I mean, clearly, with our current administration, age means nothing --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But also, the 35-year-olds that I know are some of the most -- like, the biggest dipshits in the world.

Sally: Yeah. Listen. Listen. Nobody's ever competent. But especially before 40. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah, y'know, like, statistically speaking, the most, um, put-together, like, uh, least likely to be influenced by mood swings or hormonal anything, is postmenstrual women.

Sally: Yeah, post -- yeah.

Emily: And I'm just like ... listen.

Sally: That's where it's at, yeah.

Emily: Listen. (sigh) So anyway.

Sally: So anyway, our podcast can run for president but probably shouldn't.

Emily: Oh, yeah, definitely shouldn't. Ew.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Can you imagine? When they found out -- when the guys over at CNN found out about the furry episode? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) That's the content American wants. I don't know what you're talking about.

Emily: (laugh) America's like, "We've been waiting for this." Well, to be fair, the furies are a wealthy and upstanding community --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: As far as anyone can tell, so.

Sally: Yeah, it's the voting demographic that I want on my side.

Emily: (laugh) I'm gonna puke.

Sally: What?

Emily: (laugh) Just from laughing so hard.

Sally: (laugh) I can't believe this podcast has been defined by, like, episode eight, which was the furry episode.

Emily: (clears throat) You think that's the one that defines us?

Sally: (laugh) I dunno. I feel like that was the one I think about the most.

Emily: Yeah, it is. Because we learned some disturbing truths --

Sally: Yeah, I know. I'm --

Emily: In that episode that I wish I could --

Sally: Haunted.

Emily: Escape.

Sally: There are some other good ones. There's lots of good ones.

Emily: Not that I can think of.

Sally: Larry the Trolloc was a good one.

Emily: Oh, yeah. God bless.

Sally: OK, let's talk about these chapters.

Emily: (laugh) OK. Let's --

Sally: Emily, what happened? Paint me a word picture.

Emily: Let's talk about these chapters.

Sally: I'm gonna close my eyes and lean back and just let you take me away.

Emily: Oh, Jesus.

Sally: In your magic carpet ride.

Emily: What? Where the -- is the chapter? OK, OK, OK. (laugh) (singing) I can show you the world ...

Sally: (laugh) Exactly. (singing) Shining, shimmering ...

Emily: (singing) Splendid!

Sally: Ooh.

Emily: Tell me, princess ... no. Um --

Sally: That was getting pretty good.

Emily: Was it?

Sally: I'm sad that you cut off.

Emily: I know, I'm just Christina Aguilera over here.

Sally: Yeah, exactly.

Emily: (laugh) I wish I could do a Shakira impression.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: One time I was in a drive-thru with my younger siblings, who are deeply hilarious people -- but, um --

Sally: True. Anne is so funny.

Emily: Anne and Adam -- Anne and Adam especially are really funny when they're together. You've never experienced that because Adam's been gone most of the time you've known me.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or Anne. But when they're together, they, like -- it's like a Fred and George Weasley, y'know?

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So we were in the drive-thru of McDonalds, and, like, Hips Don't Lie by Shakira --

Sally: Oh, perfect song.



Emily: And Anne immediately cranked it, and Adam immediately, like, jolted forward through the front two seats and, like, in perfect harmony, was like, “Shakira, Shakira.” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And Anne’s like, (singing) “Oh, baby, when you talk like ...”

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Anyway, so just be thinking of Hips Don’t Lie by Shakira while we talk about these chapters.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, chapter 13 opens with Rand realizing that they’ve traveled to an alternate dimension.

Sally: Oooh.

Emily: Which is, as one might think, disturbing --

Sally: Mm.

Emily: (laugh) To say the least. He’s like, “Am I dreaming? What is this? What’s happening? Am I going crazy?” He’s like, “Loial, Hurin, wake up. Is this a dream?” And they -- like, I’ve never -- I don’t -- I don’t understand why people do this, it’s like you say, “Is this a dream?” And they’re, “No, it’s not a dream,” and it’s like, that’s exactly what someone in a dream would say. Haven’t you seen Inception?

Sally: Mmm.

Emily: Everyone is out to trick you and steal your mind -- mind gold.

Sally: Your mind gold. Protect your mind vault.

Emily: (laugh) That’s gonna be the title of this episode.

Sally: Protect your treasures.

Emily: Protect your mind treasure.

Sally: Or your sexual treasures.

Emily: Stop!

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I hate that, what does that even mean?

Sally: I don't know. Think about it.

Emily: No, I don't wanna. OK, so there are a few, uh -- basically what happens in these chapters -- they realize they've traveled to this other place. Loial gives -- like, luckily they happen to be the three people needed for this expedition.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We have Rand, who's the one who got them there and who will eventually be the one to take them back --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, also, he's the one who's going to take leadership position -- one wonders what would happen if Loial and Hurin, like, somehow got there without him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, would it just dissolve into chaos? Would Loial step up? Who knows.

Sally: Oh my God, where is the leadership arc that Loial never got?

Emily: But truly, though. Loial would be a great leader.

Sally: Exactly.

Emily: As we learn. He has, later in his arc, kind of, about, you know, the power of being a public speaker and how much that matters to the Ogier.

Sally: Oh my gosh, he's so good.

Emily: Anyway, um, and Hurin can pick up the trail, the -- the violence trail, which is sort of, I guess, a mirrored image into this alternate dimension?

Sally: Yeah, which is confusing.

Emily: It's never really explained. He can still smell stuff that, you know, is happening in the other world.

Sally: Shocking. Hurin's powers aren't explained.

Emily: Yeah, Hurin's powers are just, like, whatever Robert Jordan needed them to be. (fake laugh)

Sally: Is this Otis' bed?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Does he sleep in it?

Emily: Look at how disgusting it is.

Sally: It's really tiny.

Emily: I know, we got it when he was a little puppy, and he's never wanted anything else.

Sally: (laugh) It's very little.

Emily: He does sleep on that until I'm -- like, he'll come in here and sleep on that until I look like I'm about to --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: Go to sleep, and then he wants to come up on my bed with me. But he doesn't wanna be up on my bed if I'm gonna be awake, 'cause then I'll be moving around and stuff. I dunno.

Sally: (laugh) Otis is very dramatic.

Emily: He's very, very dramatic.

Sally: Kay, so, tres horny boys.

Emily: No, stop. (laugh) McElroy brothers™.

Sally: ™ -- sorry, that's copyright, infringement.

Emily: ™, ™, ™. Um, yeah, Griffin McElroy's gonna come crashing through -- (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Yeah.

Emily: This wall.

Sally: Like the Kool-Aid man, but it's the copyright man?

Emily: I hate that. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Especially because Griffin McElroy's the opposite of what you would imagine crashing through your wall. Just, like --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In terms of physicality --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's not a very physically imposing person, at least I imagine.

Sally: No.

Emily: I've never met him. Who knows? I hope he never finds out how much I talk about him on this podcast.

Sally: I hope he does. Griffin, if you're listening --

Emily: Ew. No.

Sally: I don't know why you would be. You're a busy man.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But, um ... happy Monday?

Emily: Is that all you have to say to him?

Sally: I cannot -- I got put on the spot.

Emily: OK, sorry.

Sally: I'll think about it.

Emily: Yeah, think about that and come -- and we'll come back to it at the end.

Sally: Every episode, we'll have a message to Griffin McElroy at the end. (laugh)

Emily: Please, no. (laugh) I'd rather not.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: My social anxiety is, like, boiling.

Sally: It's OK. So is his. (laugh)

Emily: Ha. Ha ha ha.

Sally: OK, talk about the chapter.

Emily: (sing-song) Making fun of people.

Sally: I know, I'm sorry, Griffin.

Emily: Talk about the chapter. Anyway, Loial, like, um, conveniently enough, is like, "Well, I happen to have read a few pages, probably the only pages in the world, that discuss Portal Stones."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Dur dur dur dur dur.

Sally: Nerd.

Emily: He's like, "Basically, these are really old, and they're teleporting devices," and there's a bunch of stuff about, um, y'know, alternate dimensions. I think what he actually says is, uh ... Rand says, "I don't understand, Loial," which is like -- pretty much sums up the entirety of the first three books --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I don't understand, Loial."

Sally: "Please explain."

Emily: Loial says, "Neither do I, Rand."

Sally: (snort)

Emily: (laugh) "Most of it sounded like this." He really says that. "Neither do I, Rand."

Sally: Amazing. (laugh)

Emily: "Most of it sounded like this: If a woman go left or right, does time's flow divide? Does the Wheel then weave two Patterns? A thousand for each of her turnings? As many as the stars? Is one real, the other merely shadows and reflections?" Which, because we've read this before, makes a little bit more sense. It's, uh -- the Portal Stones take you to alternate dimensions but specifically, the idea is that every time you make a choice, a new dimension, where you had made a different choice, is born. So, basically --

Sally: Isn't that, like, string theory?

Emily: Yeah, I guess. Is it?

Sally: I think that -- I thought that was what string theory was.

Emily: I don't know anything about string theory.

Sally: I don't know anything about anything.

Emily: OK.

Sally: If you do science, correct me. If I'm -- if I had my phone, I'd Google it, but I'm not sitting up to get it.

Emily: Robert Jordan was like, "I'm just gonna throw some magical string theory in here and make it real."

Sally: Hell yeah.

Emily: It's pretty freaky. It's also interesting -- the Portal Stones are only used in this book and the next one, as far as I --

Sally: I know, it's like, what the hell?

Emily: Not the next one. Book four.

Sally: It's very weird.

Emily: 'Cause right after that, Traveling is created.

Sally: So it's like, what is their purpose, Robert?

Emily: And also the Ways. The Ways become obsolete.

Sally: It's very strange. It's very strange.

Emily: Yeah, Robert Jordan invented all these, uh, methods of magical travel and then immediately made them obsolete by having teleportation come back.

Sally: Yeah, so it's like -- I dunno.

Emily: What was the point?

Sally: I don't understand.

Emily: I guess 'cause he wanted teleportation to always be a thing, but -- (laugh)

Sally: Yeah, he just, like, always needs teleportation --

Emily: But he also needed that good, good content about discovering -- like, making magical scientific discoveries.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway.

Sally: But it's cool that, like, there are magics that are obsolete, quote unquote, because it adds more depth to the world and it's part of our immersive fantasy, y'know, that there's things that exist to not necessarily be utilized by the characters, except in the series they are utilized by the characters.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's like --

Emily: The idea of the Portal Stones is so old that it --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Was before the Age of Legends.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is, like, freaky to think about because we don't know anything about what those Ages looked like. There's sort of an implication that they were more like our Age, but then again, nothing in our Age is leaning anywhere towards Portal Stones --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Magical teleport -- like, magic is still needed to work these, so.

Sally: It's very weird.

Emily: Soooo.

Sally: Who knows. So, shrug.

Emily: Shrug emoji is basically these entire chapters.

Sally: Shrug. Shrug, shrug, shrug. Very confusing.

Emily: Um, so one of the themes of these chapters that they're going to spend in the alternate dimensions is -- the alternate dimension, excuse me -- is Rand's rise to leadership, which is basically born out of his own social anxiety, which is kind of, like, relatable.

Sally: Big mood, yeah.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Yeah. I remember reading these and being like, mm, can't say I wouldn't do anything different.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause Hurin's like, about to have a panic attack -- he's -- 'cause he has no leadership.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's like, "I can't handle this. I'm gonna die. My wife's gonna mourn for me. No one will know where my fucking body is."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Rand's like, "Cool it. Cool down. I'm gonna get us out of this." And Hurin's like, "OK, great. That's all I needed to hear."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "He's a tall man telling me he can do things." And every straight girl ever was like, "Yeah, same."

Sally: Oh, God. You're right, though.

Emily: Yeah. What is it with tall men and authority?

Sally: Is he hot or is he just tall?

Emily: He's just tall.

Sally: Is he smart or is he just tall?

Emily: (laugh) Is he a leader or is he just tall?

Sally: (laugh)

(banging noise)

Sally: Ah!

Emily: Ah!

Sally: It's a fucking ghost.

Emily: (laugh) My house isn't haunted.

Sally: Your house is definitely haunted.

Emily: My house was built by us.

Sally: That doesn't mean it's not haunted.

Emily: Well, don't ghosts --

Sally: Land existed before you, Emily. (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I know that, but, like --



Sally: (laugh) Listen.

Emily: When I think of haunted houses, like, haunted structures, it's because something dark and tragic in a terrible passion happened in those houses.

Sally: Or. A ghost just wants to hang.

Emily: It's just a friendly ghost?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Casper.

Sally: It's just like, "That's a nice house."

Emily: (laugh) "Heeeey."

Sally: "Juchau got --" (inaudible)

Emily: "I like that hoooouuuse. I like the brick work. I like the East Coast vibes." I don't know what the accent of this ghost is --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But he's like, "I'm just gonna chill."

Sally: "I'm just gonna chill." It's your surfer --

Emily: "See if they have room for me on the sofa."

Sally: It's your surfer ghost, um, Gus.

Emily: (snort)

Sally: He's your friend. He's a really big fan of your dad. (laugh)

Emily: Who isn't, to be honest.

Sally: That's true. Chris is a very popular man.

Emily: Chris is incredibly popular. All my Tweets about him are well-liked on Twitter.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I'm doing a terrible job of telling you what happened in these chapters.

Sally: That's OK. I -- I don't have anything -- you could be lying, and I'd be like, "Sure." I've read the Great Hunt at some point in time.

Emily: So then they travel to another dimension, the Candy Cane Forest.

Sally: Could -- kay, I'm sorry, close the book. We have a new Wheel of Time alternate timeline. Wheel of Time, colon, Candyland. (laugh) What happens?

Emily: I can't fucking remember what happens in the board game. Don't you have to, like, defeat a king and there's, like, a molasses pit?

Sally: Yeah. It -- I think you just have to, like, yeah, get through some stuff. I -- kay, story time. Um, I had this handheld Candyland video game that I played --

Emily: They had a video game?!

Sally: It was, like -- it wasn't -- it was, like, a stand-alone thing, like, you don't plug it into anything, it was just, like, a handheld Candyland --

Emily: Oh, OK.

Sally: And there were games like -- basically, like, those games where stuff drops and you have to blow things up and --

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Yadda yadda yadda.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Like, maybe tic-tac-toe or something, but I played that thing into an early grave.

Emily: How old were you, 14? (laugh)

Sally: Ohhhh my God. (laugh) I drove all the way down here. I brought you cookies. And then it's just, like, blast after blast after blast. (laugh) But maybe. I don't actually remember.

Emily: (laugh) You can't remember.

Sally: I was probably -- I was somewhere between the ages of eight and when my parents got divorced, which is an unknown day because I don't remember. (laugh) Due to trauma.

Emily, simultaneously: Trauma.

Sally: (laugh) Um, so it was sometime between that period of my life.

Emily: As a child of divorce, you very well could have been playing the Candyland video game at 14. (laugh) No one could -- (inaudible)

Sally: I brought it to school. My teacher was like, “Sally, you have to do geometry,” and I was like, “My parents are getting divorced.” (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) You were like, “My parents are getting divorced, beep boop beep boop beep beep, so fuck off. Beep boop beep beep --”

Sally: I gotta get through this gumdrop -- (inaudible)

Emily: “I’m going through a candy forest.”

Sally: Yeah. Exactly. (laugh) I think the, like, peanut brittle guy was kind of a stud. If I remember -- or, no, peanut brittle is the old lady.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) There was one of them who, like, could probably get it. (laugh) Somebody hand me my phone. I have to look at Candyland.

Emily: I can’t -- (inaudible)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Why do we do this? We go from our, like, most mellow episode of all time, ‘cause we’re exhausted, and then two days later, we’re at this.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: In my parents’ house.

Sally: Sorry, Crecky.

Emily: (laugh) That’s my parents’ celebrity name. Crecky.

Sally: They’re pretty lit.

Emily: I refer to them by that sometimes, I’m like, “Hey, Crecky --” (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: When I’m talking to both of them, and my mom always responds, ‘cause she gets it --

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And my dad is just, like -- doesn’t hear -- like, doesn’t know who I’m talking to, so then he just ignores me ‘cause he’s like --

Sally: I like that his response is, “I don’t know what he’s saying; I’m just gonna ignore her.”

Emily: He's just like, "I don't understand, and it's something I'd have to --" I showed my dad the vine yesterday of the -- you know the one with that Nickelback song --

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Where it's like, "Look at this graph"? (laugh) It just zooms in on Nickelback, and the chaotic energy is too much.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I showed that to him, and he was rolling around laughing. He thought it was so funny.

Sally: (laugh) Chris' late discovery of Vine is really funny.

Emily: I know, I've been trying to show him a new Vine. He thinks it's hysterical. OK, back to -- (laugh) the goddamn plot.

Sally: What -- OK, back to the plot of Wheel of Time: Candyland? You're right, it's very important.

Emily: I can't even think of any funny jokes to say about Wheel of Time: Candyland because, like, that's such a joke in itself.

Sally: (laugh) Mat is whichever one of the Candyland people could get it.

Emily: Oh, OK, of course. Not the peanut brittle lady.

Sally: Maybe also be the peanut brittle lady.

Emily: He's multi-faceted. He is sort of old woman-ish at times.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: He's very --

Sally: Very crone-like.

Emily: He also makes friends with every single old woman --

Sally: I know.

Emily: I don't get it.

Sally: Strange.

Emily: Every old woman to ever interact with Mat Cauthon is like, "That's my boy."

Sally: "That's my boy." OK --

Emily: "He's mine now."

Sally: What happens in the chapters?

Emily: Seriously, they just wake up by the Portal Stone, realize they've teleported, Loial's like, "I think this is a channeling thing," and everyone kinda, like, has question marks above their head except for Rand, who's like, "Oh, I can channel."

Sally: Rand's, like, "Ah --" Rand, like, looks around, and he's like, "Wait."

Emily: Rand's like, "Oh, wait, that's me."

Sally: And then his question mark turns into a lightbulb.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: He's got a big red one, and then he's like, "What the fuck," and then it's like PING.

Emily: And then it turns into a dark stormcloud of self-hatred --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: 'Cause he realizes that he did it.

Sally: And then it's raining on him because of the metaphor.

Emily: Yeah, and he's, like, having a breakdown in the corner while Loial and Hurin are like, "Huh, I dunno."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Actually, just kidding. Loial is like, "Um, so, I don't know what you were gonna do, but, uh, we kinda need to channel to get out of this, so I don't know what your whole plan was," and, like, stares at Rand, like --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: "I --"

Sally: Like, "I'm not an idiot, Rand."

Emily: "Do you wanna tell me something?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Do you wanna come out to me right now?"

Sally: Mm.

Emily: "I'm not dumb. You listen to an awful lot of Beyonce to be straight." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) Ahhhh.

Emily: That was a mean stereotype. Everybody listens to Beyonce --

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Not just gay people.

Sally: Not just gay people.

Emily: Everyone with a beating heart -- (laugh)

Sally: True. She's --

Emily: Listens to and loves Beyonce.

Sally: Listens to her, loves her.

Emily: Worships her. Anyway, Rand has a single attempt here to attempt to get them back, where he basically just goes up to the Portal Stone and touches it and is, like -- like -- does his rudimentary form of channeling. This is, um, kind of important, 'cause it's his first conscious attempt at channeling.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Where he actually knows what he's doing. And of course 'cause he knows what he's doing and it freaks him out so much, he can't do it. There's a sort of a mirroring here to Egwene in the last chapter. They both are reaching for their respective powers, but it just keeps slipping through their fingers --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And as we learned in the last chapter, that's really common when you're first starting out. Like, it takes a lot of practice to be able to just reach out and grab it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But also, um, y'know, it's interesting because Egwene so desperately wants it, and Rand's kinda pulling himself back 'cause he really doesn't wanna touch it.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: And "I'm gonna go crazy." Sort of justifiable.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So instead, what keeps happening is he keeps, um, jus, like, t coming into contact with the taint, which just, like, makes the shivers go up my spine 'cause it's such a gross --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Thing about this magic system. And all the descriptions are always super gross, like it's like rancid oil, stinking oil, I'm just like, ugh.

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Gagging. So anyway. Rand can't do it, and actually he has a moment where "the void shattered into a thousand razor-shards, slicing his mind," which is interesting; it's his first time where he attempts to channel, and -- he talks about this, like, the void never just has this violent breakage --

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: It's always -- just kind of evaporates. It's -- um, so I don't know what that means. But it's kinda traumatic for him.

Sally: Yeah. It's a good image too.

Emily: Yeah, it is a really good image. Whenever they talk about -- like, as much as I hate the imagery, it often is very --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Well-done imagery.

Sally: Yeah, it's well-constructed.

Emily: Mm-hmm. But after Rand's failed attempt, Hurin's just like, "Well, if that's not gonna work, like, maybe we could just follow their trail?" And Rand's like, "What trail, bitch?" And Hurin's like, "Oh, I can still smell them. So maybe they're here too." And Rand's like, "OK, well, I got nothing else to do so might as well follow them and see if we can figure something out."

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: Um, 'cause maybe, like, I dunno, Padan Fain will know how to get them back? And it's like, Padan Fain's not gonna help you.

Sally: Mm-mm.

Emily: You're stuck here. It's a very freaky thing, and a -- it's done well at translating how they're all keeping the panic at bay because this is a totally panic-worthy situation, but when you come into these situations, you just have to sort of function.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Even if you don't feel like it. And they all have their various coping mechanisms for this. Hurin, obviously, is looking for a tall man to worship.

Sally: Aren't we all?

Emily: Aren't we all.

Sally: Isn't that the American dream?

Emily: Um, so they just sort of set off. Rand kind of makes up some bullshit so that Loial won't think he can channel, which -- Loial, again, is, like, not stupid.

Sally: Sure, Jan.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Sure, Rand.

Emily: I can't remember when Loial does figure it out. Like, when he says he's figured it out.

Sally: Yeah, is it something -- I can't remember either.

Emily: Or if he just sees Rand channel -- I mean, everyone knows by the end of this book, but --

Sally: Yeah, everyone's like, "You idiot."

Emily: OK. 'Cause he --

Sally: He goes flying.

Emily: Projected himself into the sky.

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Just Superman.

Sally: He just Supermanned. (singing) "I'm not meant to fly ..." (laugh)

Emily: Rand al'Thor --

Sally: "I'm not that naive ..."



Emily: (laugh) Oh my God. We both went for -- you went for -- what's that band? Five for Fighting.

Sally: Five for Fighting.

Emily: And I went for the Iron Giant: (deep voice) Su-per-man.

Sally: (laugh) Well, they could meet in the middle. We could do a mash-up of Five for Fighting and the Iron Giant.

Emily: How's the song go?

Sally: I'm just --

Emily: "I'm just -- Su-per-man."

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: OK.

Sally: Exactly. Five for Fighting and the Iron Giant is a really good title for something.

Emily: Ha.

Sally: Right?

Emily: Like what?

Sally: I dunno.

Emily: An EDM group?

Sally: Sure.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Yeah, all EDM artists have dumb names anyway.

Emily: (laugh) Just comin' after them.

Sally: Listen. (inaudible)

Emily: Anyway, nothing else --

Sally: Kay, I'm sorry, we have to talk about this.

Emily: You're cool.

Sally: There's one EDM artist whose name is Blau, but it's like a three, L-A-W -- L-A-U.

Emily: I hate that.

Sally: And they expect me to believe that that's pronounced Blau. Listen. I get that the typography of a "3" looks like a "B." But just use a B. I don't get it.

Emily: I feel like a lot of EDM artists do that. Wasn't -- isn't there one that's like "Deadmau5," but then the "S" --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is a "5"?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Why did they do that? What edgy -- like, they're just high on meth or whatever, and they're like, "You know what's super edgy, Greg? If --" (laugh)

Sally: Greg. Sure, they are all white boys. Look, we can say all of this.

Emily: Yeah. What?

Sally: Because -- (laugh)

Emily: We can? (laugh)

Sally: Because we were held in an EDM hostage --

Emily: Oh, yeah. That's true.

Sally: For a year. (laugh)

Emily: Ahh.

Sally: By our dear and darling roommate Elise.

Emily: Yeah --

Sally: God, I love her.

Emily: I love you, Elise, but --

Sally: I don't understand.

Emily: I didn't understand her music taste.

Sally: I --

Emily: I don't understand EDM, really.

Sally: I don't have a problem with EDM, like, as a concept. I have a problem with DJs in their execution.

Emily: Mm.

Sally: Because EDM, a lot like classical music, I think is really interesting because -- I mean, this goes for any music without words, and I don't know shit about music, so, like, don't listen to me -- but I really like listening to it and, like, trying to, like, track the rise and fall of the music and, like, the patterns. Like, that's really interesting, and so EDM is interesting to me in that way, like, conceptually. But DJs are dirty and gross.

Emily: Um, one of the best-constructed jokes I've ever heard -- and this is, of course, typical of the Good Place -- a T -- television show -- "The Good Place" has a lot of, like, really clever jokes, but one of the most, like, beautifully delivered jokes was when they were all going around talking about what their version of hell would be, and the really idiot one, who's -- um, he said -- he's -- they always say he's not a failed -- he's a failed DJ, he says, "I wasn't a failed DJ, I was a pre-successful DJ." (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: And they're like, "What's your version of hell?" And he's like, "I'm at a Skrillex concert waiting for the beat -- the bass to drop, and it never does." (wheeze)

Sally: (laugh) There's an SNL skit about that --

Emily: Yeah?

Sally: And it's really funny -- that they're, like, at a rave and the bass never drops, and everyone's -- it's super funny. Anyway, EDM is a strange genre.

Emily: I don't know how we got here.

(pause)

Sally: Oh, I was talking about 3lau for unknown reasons.

Emily: I -- well, I can't remember how we got there.

Sally: I don't -- I don't know we got there either.

Emily: OK, OK. Basically, that's all that happens in that chapter in terms of actual plot --

Sally: It was Five for Fighting and the Iron Giant would be a good EDM group.

Emily: Right. Right right right right right.

Sally: Kay, I'm sorry, I had to know how we got there. (laugh)

Emily: OK, OK. Got it.

Sally: I'm sorry I punched you.

Emily: It was a love tap. And it was on my leg. Although my legs are really fucked right now.

Sally: Oh, no, what happened?

Emily: I don't know, I think sitting in those -- I sit in a really high chair sometimes --

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And so, like, I have to have my legs up? So now my thighs are just, like, killing me.

Sally: You're gonna get thighs of steel. First she gets arms of steel from lifting boxes --

Emily: Well, my arms of steel are already fading.

Sally: Gotta do some push-ups.

Emily: Flab.

Sally: Oh my God --

Emily: I know, I was just joking.

Sally: I'm gonna punch you in the face.

Emily: (laugh) I wanted to see if there was any, and there wasn't.

Sally: Ehhh.

Emily: OK. Um --

Sally: Is that both chapters?

Emily: No, that's just the one chapter --

Sally: Oh, boy.

Emily: The second chapter switches over to a Perrin point of view --

Sally: OK.

Emily: And it's basically once they realize that Hurin's gone and have no method of tracking people --

Sally: Oh, that's right.

Emily: Uh, that Perrin's like, "Well, actually, I can do this thing." And it's also -- like, there's this mirror of three of our central characters learning to reach out for their power.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: This is, again, the first time Perrin's doing this consciously and willingly.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: But he reaches out to the wolves and is like, "Uh, hey, um, so this is awkward ..." And they're like, "Who are you? Are you Elyas?" And he's like, "No, I'm the other guy," and they're like, "Oh, yeah, we've heard of you. Nice."

Sally: Niiiiice.

Emily: "Nice. You killed some baddies. Nice."

Sally: Hell yeah.

Emily: "Nice nice nice." Um, so then they go off and are like, "What do you want?" And he's like, "Well, we're tracking these people; here's the scent," and they're like, (screaming noise), and freak out. And are like, "We're gonna kill those fuckers." And Perrin's like, "Well, I'm down, but also we need the Horn and Mat's dagger."

Sally: The wolves are like, "Who, bitch?"

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: "We're gonna do a murder."

Emily: They're like, "What -- we're just here to --" Anyway. But Perrin's like, "Hey, Ingtar, so I can do this thing --" (laugh) It just cracks me up. He just comes up to Ingtar and is like, "Hey, I can actually still follow the trail," and Ingtar's like, "How?!" And Perrin's like, "The wolves ... told me." And Ingtar's like, "... OK. Imma go with that. But we're gonna tell everyone that you're just a sniffer like Hurin, 'cause not everyone is as cool as I am." (laugh)

Sally: "As cool as I, the closeted Darkfriend is."

Emily: Yeah. Literally. (laugh)

Sally: "I'm like -- I'm like a Darkfriend, but, like, a cool Darkfriend. Like, it's OK."

Emily: "I get it about the wolf thing."

Sally: "Yeah, that's -- that's fine."

Emily: "That's fine. Do your thing."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Oh, God, my dad might be home.

Sally: (gasp)

Emily: Dun dun! (making the knife noise from "Psycho")

Sally: Um, one of my favorite things about the wolves is that they're, like, always ready to rage when it comes to killing Darkfriends.

Emily: Oh, I know.

Sally: Like, at the end --

Emily: Perrin's like, "Hey, I saw a Trolloc," and the wolves are like, "Point me in the direction! I'm gonna go after him! I'm a student athlete, I was BORN for this."

Sally: (laugh) True, though.

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Like at the end of book six when Perrin's like, "Oh, no, we gotta go find Rand," the wolves are like, (whisper), "You got it."

Emily: Yeah, they're like, "We're down. I'm in."

Sally: They're so funny.

Emily: "Cool. We gonna fight? I love a fight."

Sally: "Love me a fight."

Emily: I know, the wolves are some of the best characters in the entire series.

Sally: Honestly. Why isn't --

Emily: Why doesn't --

Sally: What if one of the wolves was the Dragon Reborn? There you go.

Emily: It would be so fun. (laugh)

Sally: (laugh) But there are other -- it's not like a -- it's not like -- it's not like warrior cats, where all the characters are cats.

Emily: It literally just is one wolf --

Sally: It's Wheel of Time, and then there's a wolf.

Emily: Who's walking into Cairhien --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And is like, "Bitch --" And he has to have Perrin as a translator, obviously.

Sally: Yeah, obviously. So Perrin is his --

Emily: Perrin -- Perrin, mild-mannered, curly-haired Perrin, is like, "Um, he says you all can suck his dick."

Sally: Yeah. Oh my God, it's like that -- Obama's anger translator. (laugh)

Emily: Yeah. (laugh)

Sally: It's like that.

Emily: But, like, opposite. (laugh)

Sally: Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Like Perrin's translating the anger --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Into politically savvy stuff.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: OK --

Sally: The wolf is saying. (laugh) Look at how jagged that laugh was. You can see the, like, sound lines ... Why do people listen to me? Oh my God, have you guys ever heard a peacock make a noise? (laugh)

Emily: (laugh) I, like, don't even have to talk. You could just go for the next -- how long -- how far off are we? Five minutes, and then we're done.

Sally: I don't -- I don't know if I can do this without crying laughing, but peacocks are like: (imitates peacock noise)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Not kidding. (laugh) I am not kidding, they're like: (more peacock noises)

Emily: (laugh)

Sally: Like, higher-pitched than that and squeakier. It is the -- I was, like, walking through the aviary, and I heard it, and I was like, "Jesus!" And one of the agriculture people are like, "Oh, it's just a peacock," and I'm like, "No, that was a demon crawling out of the sewer." (laugh)

Emily: Someone find me a sound clip of a peacock, and I'm gonna use that in the future for our, like, white noise whenever I need to bleep something out.

Sally: (laugh) Oh my God, give me your phone.

Emily: No! Not right now.

Sally: Unlock it.

Emily: I want them to do it.

Sally: OK. You want one of your minions to send you a peacock?

Emily: Yeah. No -- a peacock, like -- just a sound byte.

Sally: (laugh) No, a live peacock.

Emily: OK, yeah, no, I don't want that.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: I don't have a P.O. box for a reason.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: So you can't send me a live peacock. (laugh)

Sally: A peacock office box.

Emily: No.

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Are we gonna get through these stupid chapters? (laugh)

Sally: (laugh)

Emily: Nothing else happens. Mat's, like, bitching in the background.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like a total weirdo. Um, he's just like, "Ah, Rand ditched me, and I'm kind of sad about that even though I didn't wanna be with him. I have a lot of feelings that I'm not talking about."

Sally: Mm-hmm.



Emily: "And I'm gonna translate that into complaining because that's my coping mechanism."  
Which is also, like -- big mood. (laugh)

Sally: Big mood. Yeah. (laugh)

Emily: Um, and -- uh, then, Verin comes up.

Sally: (laugh) Hell yeah.

Emily: She's like, "He-ey."

Sally: "Hey, it's me."

Emily: "Hey, I'm just here."

Sally: Yeah, this is where --

Emily: "Moiraine sent me, I'm just here to chill."

Sally: This is where the first --

Emily: "Do you guys like to party?"

Sally: Thirty seconds of Fergie's "London Bridge" would play --

Emily: Oh yeah?

Sally: Where it's like, "Oh, shit." (laugh) And then there comes Verin, like, walking out of the woods.

Emily: Yeah, she, like, comes galloping at them --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On her little horse, and Perrin's like -- everyone's like, "What the heck?" And Mat's like, "Ah, I know her. That's one of the Aes Sedai." He's like, "Dang. A witch."

Sally: Isn't he like, "Aw, shit."

Emily: "Not what -- I wanted it to be Rand."

Sally: "A witch."

Emily: "Everyone wanted it to be Rand." Which I don't really understand. Verin's a fair trade. Better. (inaudible)

Sally: Right? Why would you pick Rand when you could have Verin, who is cool?

Emily: Actually useful?

Sally: True.

Emily: Anyway. She, like, is rambling at them and then is like, “What the? Where’s Rand?”

Sally: What the -- what the what?

Emily: And Perrin’s like, “I saw that. I saw how interested you are in my boy.” And she’s like, “Well -- well, OK, if you say they disappeared, we’ll just keep going. Whatever you say.” And they’re like, “Sure,” and keep going, and Verin’s like, “First I’m gonna interrogate you about Rand.” That’s how it ends. Perrin’s the new sniffer. Has, uh, taken over that role. Mat’s angry.

Sally: Mm.

Emily: And everyone’s disappear -- it’s so remarkable how they take to the disappearance of the three men.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Uno’s like, “There’s literally no sign of where they went. Like, it’s like they literally just vanished.” And I’m interested because if Verin had gone back -- ‘cause Ingtar’s like, “Oh, it happened back there, you can go and check it out” -- if she had gone back, she might’ve seen the Portal Stone and figured out --

Sally: Fuck yeah.

Emily: Figured out what it was. And where they went. But, you know. “Why haven’t you left let to --” (groan) Dad. “Why haven’t you left yet to get our food, Tina?”

Sally: Tina?

Emily: Like Napoleon Dynamite. “Tina!”

Sally: Never --

Emily: “Get the food!”

Sally: Never seen it.

Emily: (texting) Give me a few minutes ... we’re busy.

Sally: I might be the only person in Utah who’s never seen Napoleon Dynamite.

Emily: That’s a great -- “That was mom, by the way. Obv.”

Sally: Obv.

Emily: Like, what the --

Sally: Obv. (Laugh) Obv. Obv.

Emily: OK, but we do have to end this now. (inaudible)

Sally: Yeah, we've been --

Emily: We have to go get food.

Sally: Summoned to go get Smashburger.

Emily: Ugh. Not "ugh" at Smashburger, just "ugh" that we have to go get food for my family.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I'm such a provider.

Sally: She's a provider.

Emily: (singing) "I'm a survivor!"

Sally: (singing, mumbling) "I'm not gonna give up, I'm a survivor ..."

Emily: (humming)

Sally: How do I not actually know the words to that song?

Emily: I don't know. That seems like the type of song you'd know all the words for.

Sally: I know. If it was playing, I could sing along.

Emily: OK.

Sally: Just a little headache-y.

Emily: So anyway, that's what happens in those chapters, and I don't have any deep analysis on them.

Sally: No, it's -- it's some of these, like, classic Robert Jordan, like, set-up transition chapters, where, like --

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: We've already --

Emily: Like, stuff's gonna start happening --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In the next few chapters. Like, Lanfear's gonna be introduced, um --

Sally: (gagging noise)

Emily: Rand's gonna do some more conscious attempts at channeling. It's kind of interesting, but -- yeah, kind of, the Great Hunt is itself a transitional book, where there's not a lot going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is kinda weird. But, yeah. That's all I have.

Sally: Mm-hmm.

Emily: This is another short episode, kind of.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: With way less academic content.

Sally: With -- last week was one hundred percent academic analysis, this week was --

Emily: Yeah. Zero.

Sally: Ten percent?

Emily: Ah, I'm not gonna even be that generous.

Sally: (laugh) Zero percent.

Emily: The only academic analysis that was done here was that I read the chapters and then, uh, summarized them --

Sally: Close reading.

Emily: Badly. (laugh)

Sally: You did a great job.

Emily: No.

Sally: The great job for the Great Hunt. The great hunt for the great job.

Emily: I -- kay. What -- do we have any housekeeping?

Sally: Um, no, just -- I would love it if you guys would recommend us to a friend this week. Um, obviously we don't pay to advertise, um -- so, I wish I could -- I wonder if I could say, um, anymore -- but if you could recommend us to a friend that you think would -- would like the show who has or has not read Wheel of Time, who's thinking about getting into it, that would be super lit. So.

Emily: Just remind them about the spoilers, 'cause we're bad --

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: About that.

Sally: We're bad about it. We're bad.

Emily: Umm. OK, we have to go get dinner. So sign us off.

Sally: Kay, today, I had to call a local school district to get a quote on bus rental per hour for a grant that I'm writing, which is, like, weird enough in itself, but I had the, like, phone number pulled up on my website, and I, like, dialed it, and I got this, like, awful noise, so I look up and realize that I dialed the fax number, and I'm like, "Oh, easy mistake." I hung up, picked it up, got the same awful noise, realize that I had dialed the fax number for the second time, so then I hung up, and then I was in the middle of dialing the fax number again -- (laugh) before I ended the call and dialed the right number. And the lady picked up, and I was, like, so annoyed that I was like, "Hi, this is Sally." And she was like, "Uh, what?" (laugh) And I had to, like -- I was like, "Oh, from -- my company." It was just, like, a hot mess, and it only got worse from there, you guys. I was just trying to be like, "Is this the per rate per bus per hour?" and I said something completely nonsensical, and she was like --

Emily: (mumbling)

Sally: I was like, "The per bus rate bus?" (laugh) It was a really big disaster. And then I didn't ask all my questions, so I had to call back. (laugh) Thriving! I just dabbled for you --

Emily: She just dabbled.

Sally: 'Cause I love you.

Emily: That's a call-back to our early episodes.

Sally: Bye!

Emily: Good-bye.